

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the remarks and analysis continued in the most recent Office Action. Applicant appreciates the Examiner issuing the most recent Office Action as a non-final action. Claims 10 - 13 and 25 are cancelled. Claim 14 is rewritten in independent form. Claims 21, 24 and 26 are amended above to correct a clerical error in each. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) of claims 1-4, 9, 15-16 and 20 as being anticipated by WO 01-14630. There is no possible anticipation. That reference is completely void of any mention or suggestion of maintaining tension on cords on an individual cord basis. Therefore, claims 1, 15 and their dependents cannot be anticipated. Many of the claims have limitations that are nowhere mentioned or suggested in that document and cannot possibly be considered inherent or “apparent” from that document. Applicant respectfully submits that it requires assuming far too much outside of the teachings of that document to assert that the claims are anticipated.

The rejection of claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) based upon the published application U.S. 2003/0024770 is moot.

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 of claims 5-7, 14, 17-18, 21-23 and 26-27 must be withdrawn. The O'Donnell, et al. publication and the WO 01/14630 publication cannot be used in a combination under 35 U.S.C. §103 against Applicants' pending claims. The subject matter of the O'Donnell, et al. publication and the claimed invention of this application were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the

same person. The O'Donnell, et al. publication was not published until after the filing date of this application. At best, the Examiner could only apply it as if it were prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) (and not 35 U.S.C. §102(a)). Therefore, 35 U.S.C. §103(c) does not permit the combination.

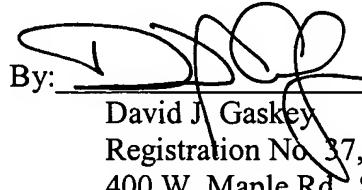
Applicant does not admit or concede prior art status to the O'Donnell et al. publication and reserves the right to challenge that if necessary.

Applicant respectfully submits that this case is in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes that additional fees in the amount of \$950.00 are required for a three month extension of time. A Credit Card Payment Form in the amount of \$950.00 is enclosed. The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS

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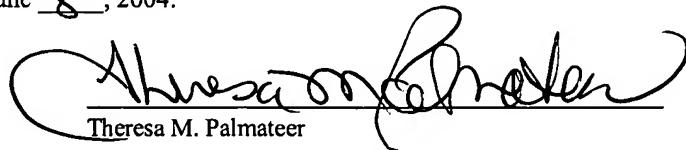
Dated: June 8, 2004



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the enclosed Request for Reconsideration is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on June 8, 2004.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Theresa M. Palmateer".

Theresa M. Palmateer

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